

Joice,

thank you for taking my call to discuss this today, I apologize for not getting back to you sooner but was honestly lost in the system here with the multiple violations.

I do not have any documentation I would like to add here. We are not rebutting or challenging the allegations of the damage. I take full responsibility where these could and should have been avoided. Please consider we have a larger than normal exposure to these damages happening then your normal site work contractor. We are the largest residential production excavator in Clark county at the moment. We average 94 new homes per month for large developers in the sw Washington area. We are excavating in and around these gas lines 368 times per month. These violations happened in a very small window of time involving the same employee, this employee was terminated. The other employee in our office in charge of the locate tickets were being entered incorrectly and allowing to expire before we are complete.

We have identified our failures. First being lack of annual training with field personal. Seconded being unable to accurately track and manage a large amount of tickets per month in the office. In short our small business has grown quickly and out paced the proper steps we should have had in place. We continue to work closely with NW natural as a partner to help us shore up our systems. Adams team at NW natural has conducted in office/ field training for all our employees as well as giving us very helpfully tips on how to continually manage the locate tickets with each job packet we generate. This allow every us to verify locates are still valid before scheduling a return trip to the jobs. I feel our systems we have now put in place have us on the right track and will continue to improve. Dig safe training was completed on Jan. 15th where all employees, supervisors and myself were in attendance. The training is informative to us all and we will be attending on an annual basis moving forward. Any further training recommended to us we will be sure to attend to better the foundation of this company.

All that being said, it does not divert any of the blame to any one beside myself. If any consideration can be made to decrease the fine amount is all I ask. we will owe over 7,500 just to NW natural/the assessed 10,000 fine and the shutdown of the company that will cost us roughly 14,000. I understand there is a small credit for the dig training but the combined hit of 35,000 at the beginning of this year has me looking at making some cuts to this company that will affect our employees and their family's that I am trying to overcome. Our small company does not have an abundant amount of liquid cash to pay this nor can we take the hit from our insurance company.

Thank you.